

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Date of Meeting:

11TH MARCH 2002

Public

Key Decision:

No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

Yes

Inside Policy Framework

Title: CUMBRIA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP – FUNDING PRINCIPLES

Report of: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Report reference: LCD 8/02

Summary:

To approve the Council's commitment to the funding principles agreed by the Partnership

Recommendations:

Members are recommended to accept the funding principles agreement and to approve Councillor Pattinson to sign it on the City Council's behalf

Contact Officer: Rob Burns

Ext: 7352

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1. Members will know that the City Council is a partner in the Cumbria Community Legal Services Partnership, having signed the Concordat in 2000 as one of the original members.
2. The Partnership's aims are as set out in the attached Concordat (Appendix A).
3. The Group is facilitated and supported by the Legal Services Commission and Councillor Pattinson is the current Chair.

2. FUNDING PRINCIPLES

1. One of the aims of the Partnership is to develop a co-ordinated approach to funding for legal advice across the County and to this end, Members have agreed a set of funding principles for each partner agency to sign up to (Appendix B).
2. The agreement binds the Council to share information on it's funding priorities and to work with all other partners to ensure the most effective and efficient access to legal advice within the resources available, but it does not commit us to any particular level of funding.
3. For information, a copy of the Partnerships Strategic Plan for 2002/3 has been placed in each Group Office.

3. CONSULTATION

N/A

4. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

N/A

5. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

No comments.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

For the sake of completeness and clarity, it is suggested that the following words are added to paragraph 1:

", subject always to the question of the level of any funding to be contributed by any individual partner being entirely a matter for that partner."

7. CORPORATE COMMENTS

N/A

8. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

N/A

9. EQUALITY ISSUES

N/A

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

11. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

N/A

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to accept the funding principles agreement and to approve Councillor Pattinson to sign it on the City Council's behalf.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To fulfil the Council's obligations to the Cumbria Community Legal Services Partnership.

Euan Cartwright

Director of Leisure & Community Development

Cumbria Community Legal Services Partnership

Concordat

We, the undersigned, are committed to the development of a Community Legal Service which benefits Cumbrian citizens.

By working in partnership with each other, and encouraging others to take part in a local network which the partnership listens to and consults with, we aim to ensure that the key elements of the Government's vision for a Community Legal Service are addressed.

The Government's vision for a Community Legal Service is:-

- a network of quality providers
- supported by co-ordinated funding
- delivering services to local communities
- based on a clear picture of local needs

As partners, we agree the Cumbria Community Legal Service partnership should have a number of key aims:-

- to look at people's needs for legal advice across the county
- check whether people can access legal advice when they need it
- help ensure they receive quality advice
- co-ordinate our funding to achieve best value
- develop training and referral arrangements
- encourage new initiatives which help local people

We will refine and review these aims as the partnership develops.

As partners, we will strive to help shape the future of community legal services in Cumbria.

Signed by:

[Signature]
W Minto CBE DL
Leader, Cumbria County Council

[Signature]
Barbara Cannon
Chairman
CLSP Strategy Group

[Signature]
Jennifer Borer
Leader
South Lakeland
District Council

[Signature]
Myrna Hill
Manager
Benefit Advice Centre

[Signature]
Mark Tennant
Chief Officer
Disability Action

[Signature]
Chris Southward
Chair
Community Law Centre

[Signature]
Peter Stybelski
Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Carlisle City Council

[Signature]
Lorraine Greenwood
Liaison Officer
West Cumberland Law Society

[Signature]
Mark Fryer
Leader
Allerdale District Council

[Signature]
Jackie Hayton
Project Manager
NCH Action for Children
Family Mediation Service

[Signature]
Sharon Ombler-Spain
Director
North Cumbria
Health Action Zone

[Signature]
Tony Kent
Chair
Citizens Advice Bureau,
Cumbria

[Signature]
J. Mark Crompton
President
Westmorland Law Society

[Signature]
Mrs N Walker
Chairman
Eden District Council

[Signature]
Rt Rev George Hacker
President
Age Concern Cumbria

[Signature]
David Addy
Regional Director
Legal Aid Board

[Signature]
Lois Willis
Chief Executive
Morecambe Bay Health Authority

[Signature]
Phil Ashcroft
County Trading
Standards Officer

[Signature]
Tom Campbell
Chief Executive
Barrow Borough Council

[Signature]
Geoff Blackwell
Mayor of Copeland

[Signature]
Robin McLeod
Chief Executive
North Cumbria Health Authority

[Signature]
Adrian Pritchard
Caseworker, Shelter

[Signature]
Michael Cousins
President
Carlisle District Law Society

APPENDIX A



North Cumbria
Health Action Zone



North Cumbria **NHS**
Health Authority

BENEFIT · ADVICE · CENTRE



Morecambe Bay
HEALTH
Authority

Cumbria Community Legal Service Partnership

Agreed funding principles

1. We agree to work together to produce a more integrated approach to funding.
2. We agree to share information on our funding priorities and restrictions on an ongoing basis.
3. We agree that all funding for Legal and Advice Services must be complementary, planned, and that its purpose can be clearly identified.
4. We agree that it is appropriate for providers of Legal and Advice services to plan their activity within the funding guidelines that we provide.
5. We agree that planned services must work together, in order to provide the Best Value service to the community.
6. We agree that the CLS Quality Mark must be a key objective for information and advice services funded by us. We will support all services that we fund in order that they can achieve the Quality Mark at the appropriate level.

Signature

Organisation

Date